

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BONN 08277 031906Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
ACDA-12 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /102 W
-----010116 040425Z /11

R 031849Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8252
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BONN 08277

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: MAY DAY IN THE FRG

SUMMARY: MAY DAY IN THE FRG WAS CELEBRATED WITH TRADE
UNION AND POLITICAL SPEECHES IN MAJOR CENTERS CALLING
FOR AN END TO UNEMPLOYMENT AND NO RETREAT FROM SOCIAL
PROGRESS. EMPLOYERS WERE SINGLED OUT FOR ATTACK
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BONN 08277 031906Z

PARTICULARLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE OF THE LOCK-
OUT AS A COUNTER-STRIKE WEAPON. END SUMMARY

1. FEDERAL CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT ASSURED A
MAY DAY CROWD OF ABOUT 5000 IN ESSEN THAT "THE FIGHT
AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT REMAINS THE NUMBER ONE TASK OF THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT." HE EXCLAIMED THAT THERE WOULD

BE NO RETREAT FROM SOCIAL PROGRESS IN HIS GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE SPD/FDP COALITION WAS IN AGREEMENT ON THAT. FURTHER, HE STATED THAT ANYONE WHO TRIES TO "STOP THE CLOCK OF SOCIAL PROGRESS WILL NOT ONLY HAVE THE POWER OF THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AGAINST HIM, BUT ALSO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT." HE PRAISED THE "SENSE OF PROPORTION" SHOWN BY THE TRADE UNIONS IN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED WAGE ROUND.

2. GERMAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (DGB) PRESIDENT HEINZ OSKAR VETTER, SPEAKING FROM THE SAME PLATFORM, WARNED AGAINST USING THE PERIOD OF ECONOMIC CRISIS AS "A PRETEXT FOR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL REACTION." VETTER WAS PARTICULARLY SHARP IN HIS ATTACK ON THE USE OF THE LOCKOUT AS A COUNTER-WEAPON TO THE STRIKE. HE LABELED THE LOCKOUT AS "A REACTIONARY ATTEMPT TO RUIN THE UNIONS FINANCIALLY AND TO DESTROY THEIR ABILITY TO FIGHT." HE INSISTED THAT THE FOUNDERS OF THE REPUBLIC HAD NOT INTENDED TO EQUATE THE LOCKOUT WITH THE RIGHT TO STRIKE.

3. WILLY BRANDT IN HANNOVER TOOK THE EMPLOYERS TO TASK FOR THE "BRUTAL" USE OF THE LOCKOUT WHICH HE DESCRIBED NOT AS A "EQUAL" WEAPON, BUT ONE DESIGNED TO "BREAK THE BACK OF THE UNIONS." HE WARNED THAT WAGE AUTONOMY WOULD BE ENDANGERED IF EMPLOYERS RESORTED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BONN 08277 031906Z

TO GENERAL LOCKOUTS AS A WEAPON IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

4. OTHER NATIONAL AND REGIONAL UNION LEADERS SOUNDED SIMILAR THEMES FROM PLATFORMS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. SOME ARGUED FOR SHORTER HOURS AND A REDUCED WORKWEEK AS TOOLS TO FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT. MOSTLY, THEY STUCK TO THE TRADITIONAL THEMES OF JOBS, FREEDOM AND PROGRESS. IN SEVERAL PLACES, IN ESSEN, WEST BERLIN, SINGEN, SMALL BANDS OF "LEFT OR RIGHT EXTREMISTS" SHOWED UP. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF WEST BERLIN, WHERE SEVERAL POLICEMEN WERE REPORTED SLIGHTLY INJURED IN A SCUFFLE, THESE APPEARANCES CAUSED NO DISRUPTION OF THE MAY DAY MEETINGS.

5. COMMENT: THE WIDESPREAD USE OF THE LOCKOUT BY EMPLOYERS IN BOTH THE RECENT PRINTING AND METAL INDUSTRY DISPUTES HAS PROVOKED INCREASINGLY SHARP CRITICISM FROM UNION LEADERS. IN THE FRG, WHERE THE LOCKOUT IS NOT ILLEGAL, BUT HAS BEEN ONLY RARELY USED, ITS UNRESTRICTED USE COULD BECOME AN ISSUE OF MAJOR POLITICAL IMPORTANCE.

STOESSEL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MAY DAY, SPEECHES, LABOR UNIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN08277
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780189-0942
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780599/aaaadgot.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 702eb2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2810110
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAY DAY IN THE FRG SUMMARY: MAY DAY IN THE FRG WAS CELEBRATED WITH TRADE UNION AND POLITICAL SPEECHES IN MAJOR CENTERS CALL
TAGS: ELAB, GE
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/702eb2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014